

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 OMB-01 AGR-20 IGA-02 SS-20 L-03 ABF-01

DRC-01 /179 W

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P 290933Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2313

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5036

E.O. 11652: GDS - JUNE 1, 1975

TAGS: EAID, US, JO

SUBJ: PL 480 ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN

DEPT PASS AID

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER ON ANOTHER SUBJECT,
HE RAISED QUESTION OF FOOD SUPPORT FOR JORDAN FOR FY75.

2. HE REPEATED POINT WHICH OTHER JORDANIANS HAVE BEGUN
TO MAKE TO US THAT THIS YEAR'S WHEAT CROP WILL NOT
EXCEED 180,000-200,000 TONS. IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT
SAYS IT IS FACED WITH EXTENSIVE HOARDING BY FARMERS WHICH
MEANS WHEAT AND CORN IS GOING TO BE INCREASINGLY SCARCE
IN LOCAL MARKETS. SUPPLIES ON HAND WITH GOVERNMENT
CURRENTLY AMOUNT TO TWO MONTHS. HOARDING IS EXPLAINED
PARTLY AS HOLDING BACK SEED GRAIN FOR NEXT YEAR, AND
PARTLY TO PROVIDE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION ON FARMS.

3. I QUESTIONED PRIME MINISTER CLOSELY ABOUT SMUGGLING.
HE SAID IT GOES ON BUT JORDAN WAS CLAMPING DOWN SEVERELY
AND PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 5000 TONS HAD MOVED.
THIS GOES TO SAUDI ARABIA, A TON OR SO AT A TIME, WHERE
CURRENT PRICES ARE ABOUT 60-65 JD'S PER TON, COMPARED
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WITH GOJ GOVERNMENT PRICE OF 55 JD'S PER TON. SYRIAN

PRICES WERE 85 JD'S PER TON, BUT BORDER IS EASIER TO CONTROL AND SARG APPARENTLY PERMITS NO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS TO HOLD SUPPLIES.

4. UPSHOT OF ALL OF THIS IS THAT JORDAN NOW REQUESTS WHEAT ALLOCATIONS FOR FY75 OF 100,000 TONS AND 40,000 TONS CORN. PRIME MINISTER REMARKED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD EGYPT ALREADY RECEIVING 100,000 TONS AND HOPED FOR SIMILAR SPEEDY ACTION FOR JORDAN. HE WOULD LIKE 20-25,000 TONS DELIVERED JANUARY 1975 WHEN TWO MONTHS SUPPLIES RUN OUT. THIS IS BEING FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION OF DEPARTMENT AND AID/W. WE WILL SUBMIT COMMENTS ON PM'S REQUEST IN FEW DAYS. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974AMMAN05036
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740239-0466
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974089/aaaaahmn.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PL 480 ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN DEPT PASS AID
TAGS: EAID, US, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005